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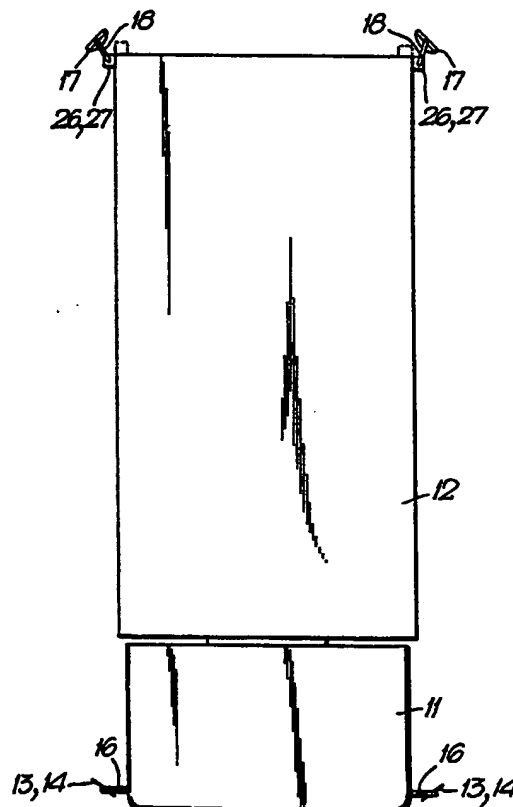
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(71)(72) Applicant and Inventor: **WADE, Stephen, Francis [GB/GB]; 4 Thornden Close, Herne Bay, Kent CT6 7RT (GB).**
(74) Agent: **WRIGHT, Hugh, Ronald; Brookes & Martin, 52/54 High Holborn, London WC1V 6SE (GB).**
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(54) Title: VEHICLE REAR VIEW APPARATUS**(57) Abstract**

An optical system comprising a first mirror (13, 14) for mounting adjacent the front (11) of the vehicle in the view of the driver of the vehicle, a second mirror (17) for mounting adjacent the rear corner of the vehicle, the first and second mirrors being of such a form and mounted so that in use, the driver, when looking into the first mirror (13, 14), can see, via the second mirror (17), a view immediately behind the vehicle which is otherwise obstructed by the vehicle itself.



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VEHICLE REAR VIEW APPARATUS

The present invention relates to a vehicle rear view apparatus.

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With many vehicles, particularly vans and lorries, the driver has no clear view of the area immediately behind the vehicle. This is shielded by the van or lorry body. Accidents can occur owing to drivers reversing without
10 being able to see immediately behind the vehicle.

The present invention provides an optical system for assisting with this problem.

15 The invention provides, according to a first aspect, an optical system comprising a first mirror for mounting adjacent the front of the vehicle in the view of the driver of the vehicle, a second mirror for mounting adjacent the rear corner of the vehicle, the first and
20 second mirrors being of such a form and mounted so that in use, the driver, when looking into the first mirror, can see, via the second mirror, a view immediately behind the vehicle (which may otherwise be obstructed by the vehicle itself).

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In order to provide a suitable view, there is provided a suitable curvature of the surface of one or both mirrors.

The second mirror may be mounted to the vehicle by an easily releasable mounting means.

Preferred arrangements of the invention will now be described by way of example only and with reference to the accompanying drawings in which:-

Figure 1 is a front view of a lorry incorporating an optical system of the invention showing first, front, mirrors,

Figure 2 is a rear view of the vehicle showing second, rear mirrors,

Figure 3 is a plan view of the lorry of Figures 1 and 2,

Figure 4 to 7 are respectively, side, front perspective, plan, and underplan views of the second, rear mirror,

Figure 8 is the driver's eye view looking into the first, front mirror,

Figures 9A-9C show the method of mounting the mirrors; and

Figures 10 to 13 correspond to Figures 3 to 6 of a second embodiment of the second, rear, mirror,

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Referring to Figures 1 and 2, there is shown a typical lorry 10 comprising a cab 11 and a body 12. Clearly the body 12 obstructs the view immediately behind the vehicle to the driver in the cab 11.

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We will refer hereafter to the mirrors on one side of the vehicle only, the mirrors on the opposite side being similar.

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As is clear from Figure 1, there are provided a pair of front mirrors 13,14 mounted on a single bracket 16. The optical system of the invention may simply utilise a conventional mirror, like the lower mirror 14 or a slightly concave, magnifying mirror like the upper mirror 13. Whichever is used, the front, mirror forms a first mirror of the system of the invention. Figure 7 shows the view through the two mirrors; thus the view through the mirror 14 is a conventional rear view and the view through the mirror 13 is apparently enlarged.

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As is shown in Figure 2, there is also provided on each side of the rear corner of the vehicle a second, rear mirror 17 mounted on a bracket 18. The bracket should be easily removably mounted on a releasable mounting means or at least pivotable so as to allow the mirror 17 to be removed or pivoted away when the rear doors 19 of the vehicle are open. Figure 3 shows the relative

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dispositions of the lorry and mirrors.

One arrangement of mirror 17 is shown in Figures 4 to 7. Figure 4 shows a side view of the mirror, and Figure 5 shows a view of the front reflective surface 21 of the mirror. It will be clearly seen that the mirror 17 has a reflective front surface 21 which is curved. The form of the reflective front surface 21 and the rear housing 22 of the mirror 17 will be clear from Figures 4 to 7 but may be varied as circumstances require.

The mirror 17 is convex and the radius of curvature of the surface of the mirror in a horizontal plane is suitably between 100 and 650mm, and we have found that approximately 250mm is suitable in the circumstances. The radius of curvature in the vertical plane is different and is preferable between 400mm and infinity and we have found that a particularly suitable radius of curvature is 750mm or 1000mm.

We have found that a suitable width of mirror is between 90 and 200mm preferably 120mm and height between 150 and 500mm, preferably 400mm.

The arrangement shown in Figures 10 to 13 is similar, except that the front reflective surface 21 is pitched slightly forwardly, that is the top edge 23 is more

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forward than the lower edge 24.

It will be understood that because of the curved convex surfaces of the mirror 17, the driver sitting in the cab looking into the mirror 13 will see a view of the mirror 17, and in that mirror 17 he will see a view around the rear of the vehicle. Figure 5 shows an idea of the type of view shown through the mirror 17.

The arrangement shown in Figures 10-13 operates in a similar manner to that of Figures 4-7, except that because the reflective surface 21 of the mirror 17 is effectively pitched forward, it shows an area of the ground closer to the mirror around the rear of the vehicle.

Referring to Figures 9A-C it will be seen that each of the mirrors is mounted to the vehicle in such a manner as to be easily removable. The vehicle mounts upper and lower sockets 26,27 into which may be mounted a suitably shaped part 28,29 attached to the inner end of the brackets 16.

It will be clear that the parts 28,29 of the bracket 16 comprise circular cross section rod, to the ends of which are mounted laterally extending fins 31, 32 and the cross section of the socket 26,27 into which the parts 28,29

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fit comprise a central cylindrical part 33 and two opposite extending slots 34,36.

5 In use, therefore, the mirror 17 may be readily mounted to the vehicle body by dropping the parts 28,29 of the brackets 16 into the sockets 26,27, the circular part of the parts 28,29 of the brackets fitting into the cylindrical part 33 and the fins 31,32 fitting into the slots 34,36. In this way the mirror is mounted to the
10 body in such a manner that it cannot be rotated.

Thus in use, the mirror 17 is mounted to the sockets 26,27 by its bracket 16 and is adjusted until the correct view is provided. That adjustment is carried out by
15 means of the adjustment nut 37. Thereafter the adjustment nut 37 can be tightly clamped and removing and replacing the mirror is a simple job. When the mirror is replaced by inserting the bracket 16 in the sockets 26,27, one can be assured that the mirror will be
20 correctly adjusted.

The mirror surface of mirror 17 may be manufactured of glass or plastic suitably coated, and the housing 22 may be made of plastic. The reflective front surface 21 may
25 be mounted to the housing 22 either permanently or releasable. There may be provided a spring mounting with a flexible gasket between the outer rim of the reflective

front surface 21 and the housing 22 as is well known.

Alternatively one may provide a clip means whereby if the reflective front surface 21 is to be removed, the clip is disengaged and the front surface may be slid out of the housing 22 to be replaced.

To assist in use of the optical system at night, the lorry should be fitted with reversing lights.

It will be understood that the use of two sets of mirrors on each side of the vehicle enables otherwise blind spots to be viewed.

In an alternative arrangement, not illustrated, we provide a smaller version of the mirror which may be mounted to a motor car. The mirror may be removably attached to a mounting means which may be in the form of, for example, a rubber sucker or other removable or permanent mounting means. Thus the mirror may be readily attached to the rear of the vehicle when a difficult reversing parking manoeuvre is to be undertaken.

The invention is not restricted to the details of the foregoing example.

CLAIMS

1. An optical system comprising a first mirror for mounting adjacent the front of the vehicle in the view of the driver of the vehicle, a second mirror for mounting adjacent the rear corner of the vehicle, the first and second mirrors being of such a form and mounted so that in use, the driver, when looking into the first mirror, can see, via the second mirror, a view immediately behind the vehicle which is otherwise obstructed by the vehicle itself.
2. A optical system as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the surface of the first and/or second mirrors is curved.
3. A optical systems as claimed in claim 1 characterised in that the surface of the second mirror is convex.
4. A optical system as claimed in claim 3 characterised in that the radius of curvature of the second mirror is smaller in a horizontal plane than in a vertical plane.
5. A optical system as claimed in claim 4 characterised in that the radius of curvature of the second mirror in a horizontal plane is between 100 and 650mm.

6. A optical as claimed in claim 5 characterised in that the radius of curvature of the second mirror in the horizontal plane is approximately 250mms.
- 5 7. An optical system as claimed in any of claims 2 to 6 characterised in that the radius of curvature of the second mirror in the vertical plane is between 400mm and infinity.
- 10 8. An optical system as claimed in claim 7 characterised in that the radius of curvature of the second mirror in the vertical plane is approximately 750mm.
- 15 9. An optical system as claimed in any of claims 1 to 8 characterised in that the first mirror is flat.
- 10 10. An optical system as claimed in any of claims 1 to 9 characterised in that the second mirror is mounted adjacent to the rear corner of the vehicle by an easily releasable mounting means.
- 20 11. An optical systems as claimed in claim 10 characterised in that releasable mounting means comprises an arm connected to the second mirror and a socket means, the arm being insertable into the socket means, and the arm and socket means being so shaped relative to each

other as to prevent rotation or movement of the second mirror means.

- 5 12. An optical system as claimed in claim 11 characterised in that said socket means has a vertical axis.
- 10 13. An optical system as claimed in claim 11 or 12 characterised in that said arm is of circular cross section with laterally extending fins.
- 15 14. An optical system as claimed in any of claims 10 to 13 characterised in that said second mirror is mounted by two substantially identical mounting means, disposed respectively at or adjacent the top and bottom of the second mirror.

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Fig.1.

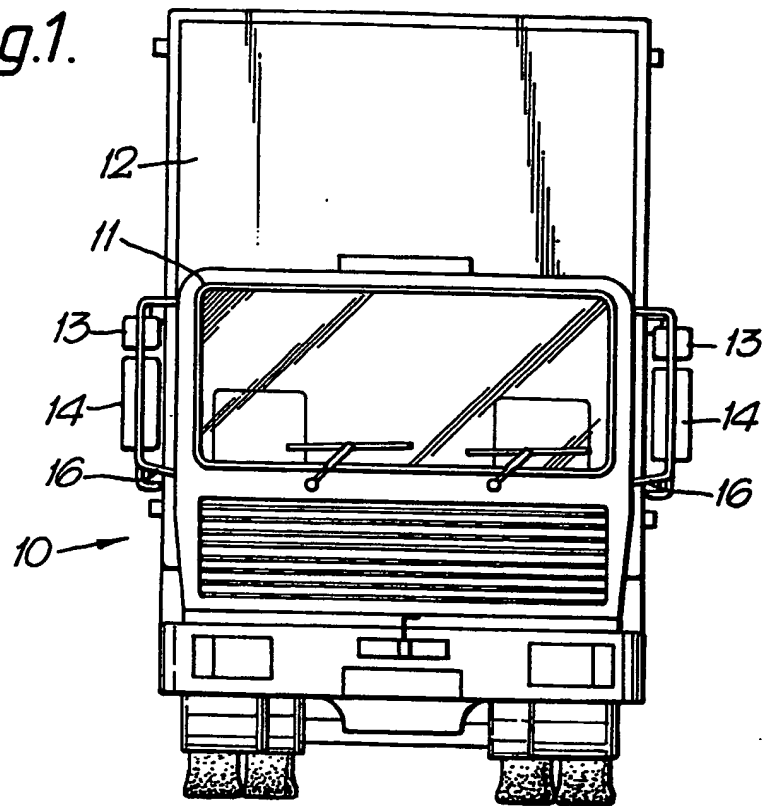
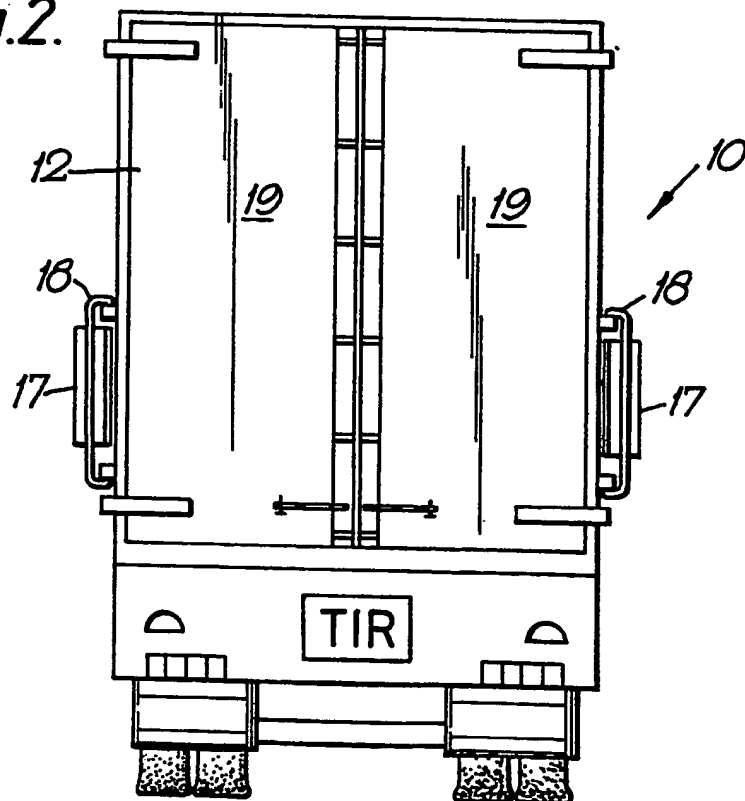
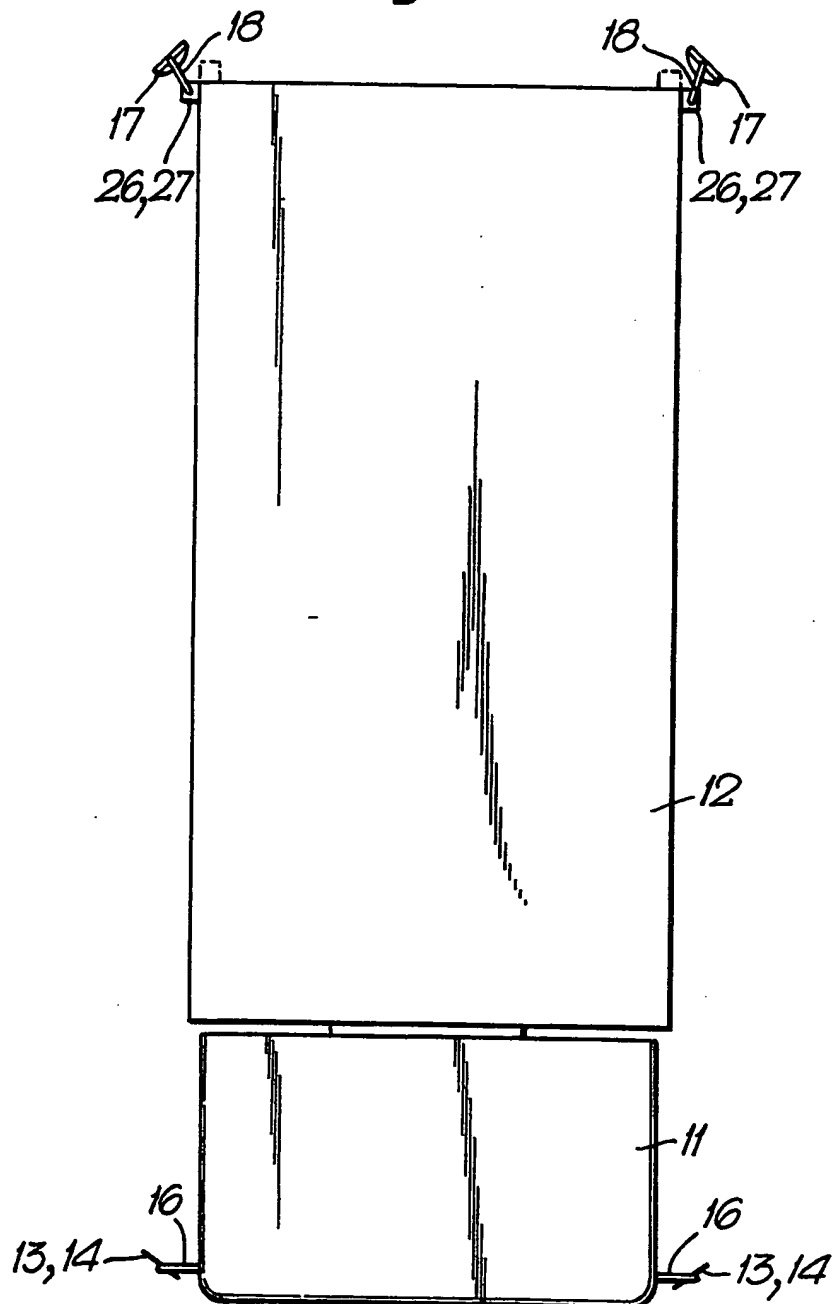


Fig.2.



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Fig.3.



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Fig. 4.

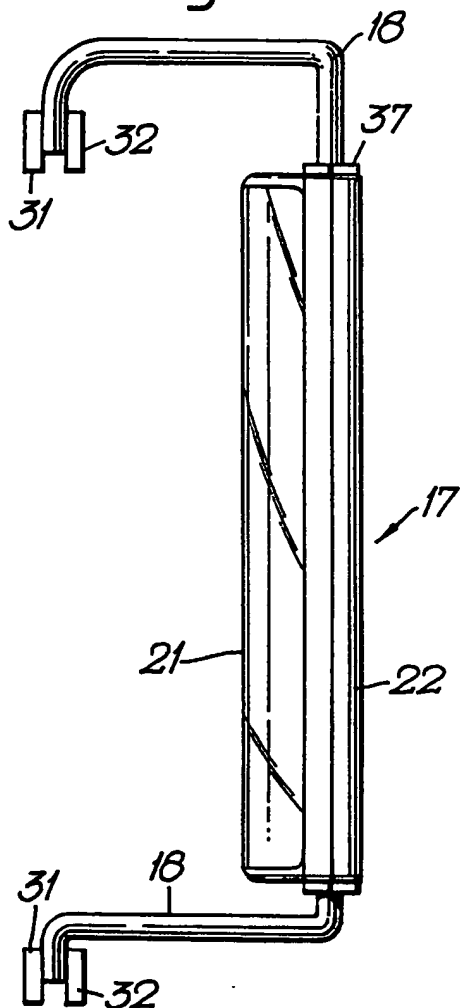


Fig. 5.

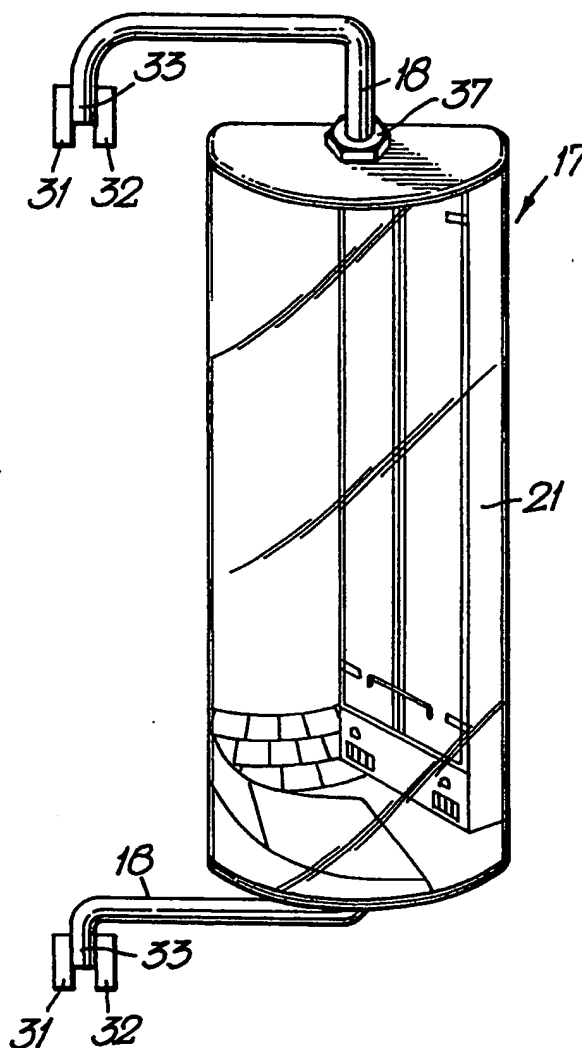


Fig. 6.

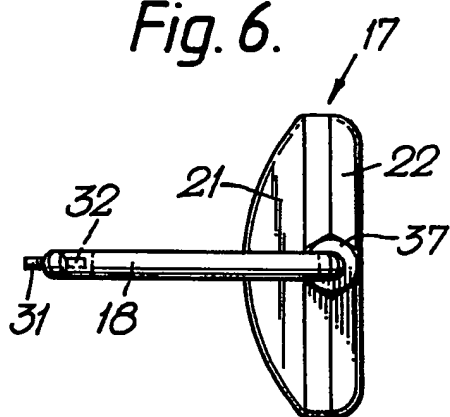
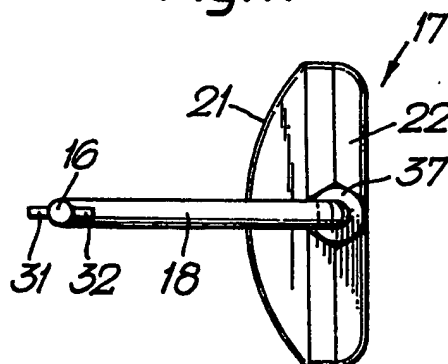


Fig. 7.



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Fig. 8.

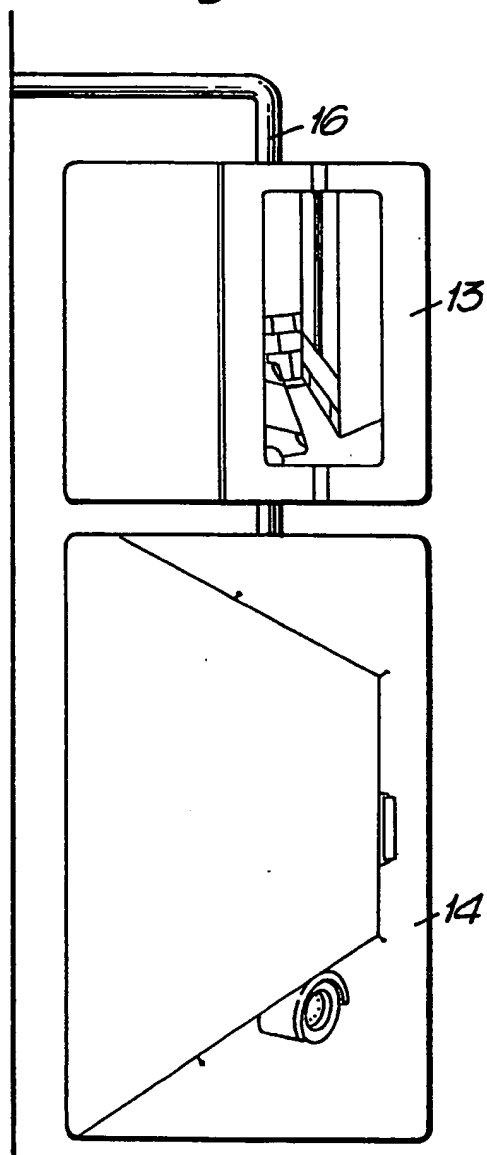


Fig. 9A.

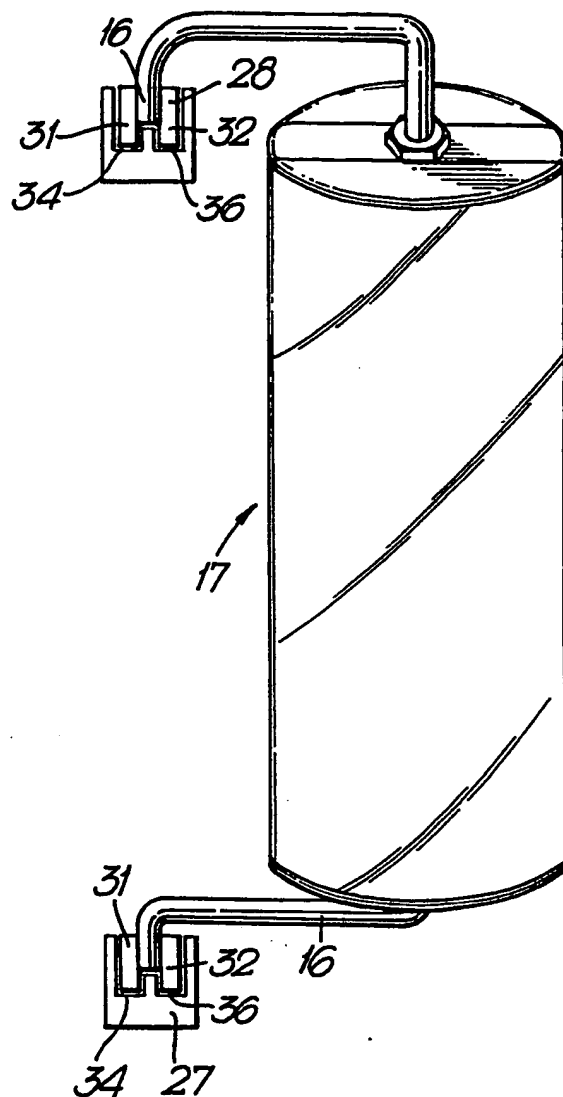


Fig. 9C.

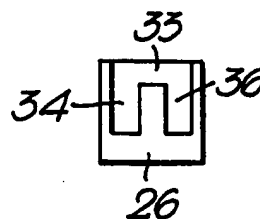
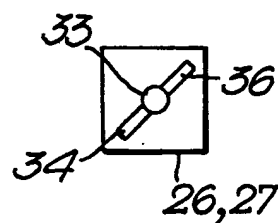


Fig. 9B.



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Fig.10

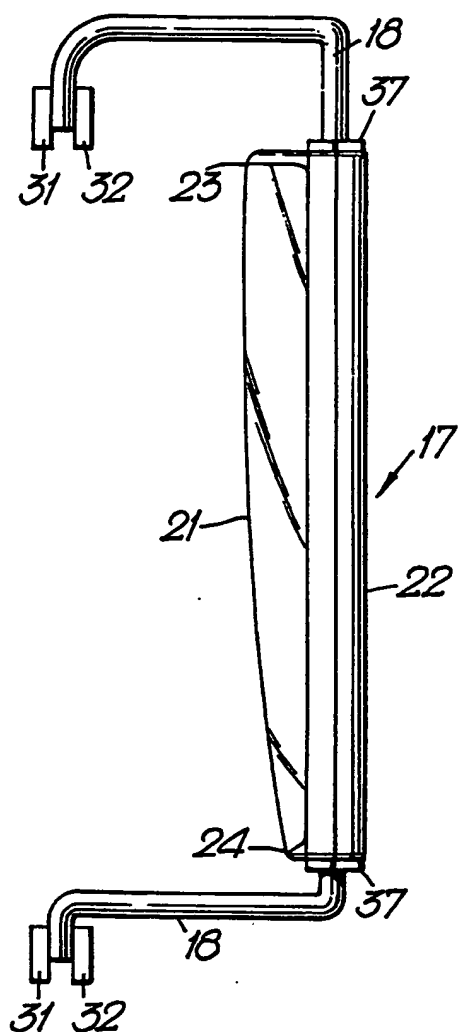


Fig.11.

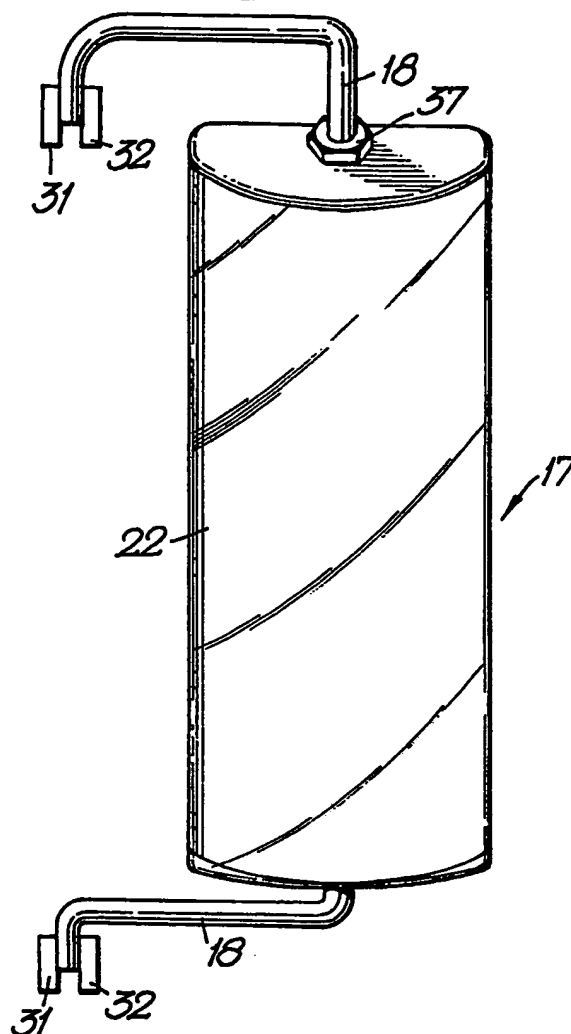


Fig.12.

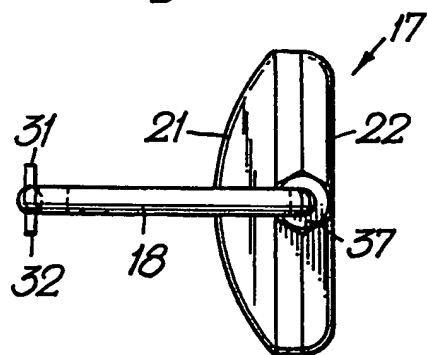
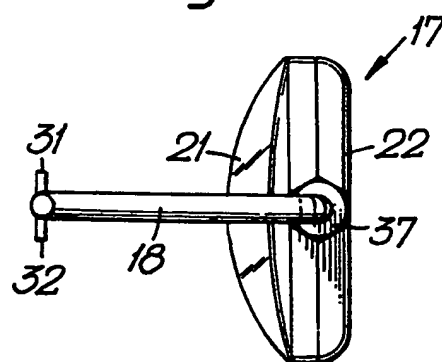


Fig.13.



INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT

International Application No

PCT/GB 90/00630

I. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER (If several classification symbols apply, indicate all)⁶

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both National Classification and IPC

Int.Cl. 5 B60R1/08

II. FIELDS SEARCHED

Minimum Documentation Searched⁷

Classification System

Classification Symbols

Int.Cl. 5

B60R

Documentation Searched other than Minimum Documentation
to the Extent that such Documents are Included in the Fields Searched⁸III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT⁹

Category ¹⁰	Citation of Document, ¹¹ with Indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages ¹²	Relevant to Claim No. ¹³
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 1, no. 23 (M-76)(1814) 25 March 1977, & JP-A-51 137237 (SEISHIN OKUDA) 27 November 1976, see the whole document	1-3
Y	---	4
Y	US,A,3901587 (HAILE) 26 August 1975 see column 1, line 18 - column 3, line 21; figures 1-3	4
X	---	1-3, 9
X	PATENT ABSTRACTS OF JAPAN vol. 10, no. 115 (M-474)(2172) 30 April 1986, & JP-A-60 244643 (TOUKAI RIKADENKISEISAKUSHO K.K.) 04 December 1985, see the whole document	1-3, 9
X	GB,A,2085382 (DAVID BRIERLEY) 28 April 1982 see page 1, lines 1 - 104; figures 1-3	1, 9

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cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the
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ments, such combination being obvious to a person skilled
in the art.¹⁰ "&" document member of the same patent family

IV. CERTIFICATION

Date of the Actual Completion of the International Search

31 JULY 1990

Date of Mailing of this International Search Report

28.08.90

International Searching Authority

EUROPEAN PATENT OFFICE

Signature of Authorized Officer

D'SYLVA C.

III. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT (CONTINUED FROM THE SECOND SHEET)

Category *	Citation of Document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to Claim No.
X	US,A,4469405 (CHIN-WUN) 04 September 1984 see abstract; figure 3 see column 3, line 28 - column 4, line 6	1-3, 9
A	DE,A,3328432 (KRAAS PETER) 21 February 1985 see page 3, line 1 - page 18 see page 13, line 26 - page 14, line 22 see figures 1-3	10-14

**ANNEX TO THE INTERNATIONAL SEARCH REPORT
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SA 36555

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Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US-A-3901587	26-08-75	None	
GB-A-2085382	28-04-82	None	
US-A-4469405	04-09-84	None	
DE-A-3328432	21-02-85	None	

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